Functioning of terrorists Camps in Pakistan

2410. SHRIABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Pak jehadi assembly line still functional', published in the "HindustanTimes", dated the 6th June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether terrorists camps in Pak occupied Kashmir are functioning at its peak and the promise of the Pak Government to end cross border terrorism is lying in cold storage; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Pakistan has established an elaborate infrastructure for the recruitment, indoctrination and training of terrorists on its territories and territories under its control, to support its policy of sponsoring cross border terrorism in J&K and other parts of India.

Despite the commitment from President Musharraf to end cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, not to allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorism anywhere in the world or any organisation in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir, there is no evidence of any firm attempts being made to dismantle the infrastructure that supports and feeds cross border terrorism including launching stations, communication centres and training camps.

(c) Government are firmly resolved to continue taking all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan sponsored cross border terrorism.

American influence in Indian Foreign Policy

†2411. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign policy of India is under influence of America;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that India has repeatedly failed to get Pakistan declared as a terrorist nation despite all the evidences due to its foreign policy being under influence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Government pursues an independent foreign poilicy guided solely by India's national interests.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to the Government's strong and purposive international engagement, the international community, including the United States, recognises Pakistan's links with cross-border terrorism in India and the responsibility and the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to put an end to it. It is for the Government of the United States to examine whether Pakistan meets the criteria prescribed by the U.S. domestic law for designating a country as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Closure of Indian Offices in Pakistan

†2412. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Indian offices in Pakistan have been kept closed due to the involvement of Pakistan indirectly in continued terrorism in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that America is continuously exercising pressure upon India to reopen its offices and to normalise the situation and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.